

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An acrylic elastomer composition vulcanizable by press vulcanization and oven vulcanization as secondary vulcanization under heating conditions, which consists essentially of comprises an aliphatic unsaturated dicarboxylic acid monoalkyl ester copolymerized acrylic elastomer, a carboxylic group-containing acrylic elastomer consisting of a copolymer of at least one of an alkyl acrylate having an alkyl group of 1-8 carbon atoms and an alkoxyalkyl acrylate having an alkoxyalkyl group of 2-8 carbon atoms with a carboxyl group-containing unsaturated compound, (A) about 0.1 to about 5 parts by weight of a vulcanizing agent consisting exclusive of sulfur and consisting of a polyvalent amine compound, and (B) about 0.05 to about 10 parts by weight of an antioxidant comprising a thiazole-based compound selected from 2-mercaptopbenzothiazole, or its zinc salt, or dibenzothiazyl disulfide on the basis of 100 parts by weight of said acrylic elastomer, wherein the thiazole-based compound inhibits oxidative degradation of said acrylic elastomer composition.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): An acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1, wherein an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant is further used together with the thiazole-based compound. the thiazole-based compound is used together with an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Previously presented): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article, vulcanization-molded from an acrylic elastomer composition according to Claim 1.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Original): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article according to Claim 8, which has parts in a wall thickness of not more than 30mm.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Original): An acrylic elastomer vulcanization-molded article according to Claim 10, wherein the vulcanization-molded article having parts in a wall thickness of not more than 30mm is a gasket or O ring.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A method of improving compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition which comprises a carboxyl group-containing acrylic elastomer, which method comprises using a vulcanizing agent of a polyvalent amine compound to prepare the acrylic elastomer composition and incorporating a thiazole-based compound selected from 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, or its zinc salt, or dibenzothiazyl disulfide into the acrylic elastomer

composition and subjecting to press vulcanization and oven vulcanization as secondary vulcanization by heating.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A method of improving the compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition according to claim 14, wherein the thiazole-based compound inhibits oxidative degradation of said acrylic elastomer composition.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) A method of improving the compression set characteristics of an acrylic elastomer composition according to claim 14 further comprising including an amine-based or phenol-based antioxidant into the acrylic elastomer composition, which functions as a primary antioxidant.